

I urged President Bush to use U.S. military aid as a carefully calibrated lever, in order to make sure our arms and our money helped make Pakistan more free, and the U.S. more safe.

Later that week, I unveiled a comprehensive plan for long-term engagement with Pakistan—or moving our strategy from a “Musharraf policy” to a “Pakistan policy.” In broad strokes, the basic elements of this plan are:

Triple non-security aid, to \$1.5 billion annually. For at least a decade. This aid would be unconditional: it is our pledge to the Pakistani people.

Instead of funding military hardware, it would build schools, clinics, and roads.

Condition security aid on performance. We should base our security aid on clear results.

We are now spending well over \$1 billion annually, and it is not clear we are getting our money's worth.

We should be willing to spend more if we get better returns—and less if we don't.

Help Pakistan enjoy a “democracy dividend.” The first year of genuine democratic rule should bring an additional \$1 billion, above the \$1.5 billion non-security aid baseline, with future non-security aid calibrated, again, above the guaranteed baseline, to Pakistan's institutionalization of democratic and good-governance norms.

We have got to help moderate, secular political leaders show the Pakistani people that they can deliver the goods.

Engage the Pakistani people, not just their rulers. We need a broad-based engagement, not just government to government.

This will involve everything from improved public diplomacy to reviewing visa procedures and textile quotas to reversing this administration's shameful torture policies and shutting the prison at Gitmo.

Today is not the day to delve into the specifics of long-term strategy; I will come to the floor at a later date and sketch out this comprehensive plan in greater detail.

Today is a time for all of us to come together in support of a resolution which, I would hope, expresses the sentiments of every Member here.

All of us, surely, send our condolences on the death of Benazir Bhutto, and condemn her bloodthirsty assassins.

All of us, surely, want to see her murderers—and those who arranged her murder—brought to justice.

All of us, surely, want to see Pakistan set firmly back on the democratic path.

All of us, surely, want to make certain that the billions of dollars we send to Pakistan in aid genuinely serve the purposes for which it is intended—that it bolsters a stable, moderate, democratic state, and that it supports the battle against the violent terrorist groups who have declared war on the U.S. and Pakistan alike.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 66—COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THE KINGDOM OF THAILAND

Mr. WEBB (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DODD, Mr. HAGEL, Mrs. BOXER, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 66

Whereas 2008 marks the 175th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand in 1833, during President Andrew Jackson's administration and the reign of King Rama III, and the commencement of the relationship between the 2 countries;

Whereas Thailand was the first treaty ally of the United States in the Asia-Pacific region and remains a steadfast friend with shared values of freedom, democracy, and liberty;

Whereas, in December 2003, the United States designated Thailand as a major ally outside the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, which improved the security of both countries, particularly by facilitating joint counterterrorism efforts;

Whereas, for more than a quarter century, Thailand has been the host country of Cobra Gold, the United States Pacific Command's annual multinational military training exercise, designed to ensure regional peace and promote regional security cooperation;

Whereas, in the wake of the tragic 2004 tsunami, the United States and Thailand launched joint relief operations from Utapao, Thailand, strengthening the overall capacity of the forces involved in providing relief and setting the model for effective humanitarian operations throughout the entire region affected by the deadly tsunami;

Whereas Thailand is a key partner of the United States in Southeast Asia and has supported closer relations between the United States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations;

Whereas, on June 22, 2006, Congress agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 409, 109th Congress, commemorating the 60th anniversary of the ascension to the throne of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand;

Whereas, on December 5, 2007, the people of Thailand celebrated the 80th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest-serving monarch, who is loved and respected for his lifelong dedication to the social and economic development of the people of Thailand;

Whereas, on December 23, 2007, the Royal Thai Government held nationwide parliamentary elections that are paving the way for a successful return of democracy to Thailand;

Whereas approximately 500,000 people of Thai descent live in the United States, joining in the pursuit of the American Dream;

Whereas Thailand is the 20th largest trading partner of the United States, with bilateral trade totaling approximately \$30,600,000,000 per year; and

Whereas the bonds of friendship and mutual respect between the United States and Thailand are strong: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 175th anniversary of relations between the United States and the Kingdom of Thailand;

(2) offers sincere congratulations to the Kingdom of Thailand and the people of Thailand for the democratic, free, and fair elections held on December 23, 2007;

(3) commemorates the 80th birthday of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand and offers sincere congratulations and best wishes for the continued prosperity of the Kingdom of Thailand; and

(4) looks forward to continued, enduring ties of friendship between the peoples of Thailand and the United States.

Mr. WEBB. Madam President, today I wish to introduce a resolution to commemorate the 175th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Thailand and the 80th birthday anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand, and also to express our recognition for the success of the recent parliamentary election in that country.

I am very pleased to be joined by Senator BIDEN and Senator LUGAR, the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, together with Senators WARNER, DODD, HAGEL, BOXER, and MURKOWSKI as co-sponsors of this resolution.

Next month will mark 175 years of a special friendship between the United States and Thailand, which began with the signing of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce in 1833 during the administration of President Andrew Jackson, making Thailand our first treaty ally in Asia.

Throughout the years, Thailand has often been a close friend and strategic partner of the United States and has proven to be a dependable key ally in Southeast Asia, helpful to the United States' interests in that region.

Sharing our values of freedom and liberty, Thailand has partnered with the United States in fighting numerous military engagements throughout our history, including its current support in the global war on terror.

In 2003, President Bush declared Thailand a major non-NATO ally, a designation which represents a close and extensive relationship between our two countries.

The United States has enjoyed dynamic, vast, and varied cooperation and partnership with Thailand, which have not only strengthened our bilateral relations, but in many ways have also benefitted the Asian region as a whole.

For more than a quarter century, Thailand has been the host country of Cobra Gold—the United States annual multinational military training exercise—to promote regional stability and security cooperation. As another case in point, the United States and Thailand's joint relief operations in the wake of the tragic 2004 tsunami promoted the overall capacity of the international humanitarian forces in providing relief, setting a model for effective humanitarian operations in the region.

Madam President, I have visited Thailand many times over the past 25 years and have many friends in that country. I had the privilege of visiting

Thailand last year for the first time as a sitting Senator and was very pleased to see so much cooperation with the United States, particularly with our military. During our meetings, I was also gratified to see that so many Thai military leaders and Government leaders had been educated and trained in the United States—leading to the sense of lasting friendship and goodwill between our two countries toward our mutual interests.

On another important point, as was promised at the time of the political coup, which occurred in 2006, I am very pleased to be able to remind and reassure my colleagues that Thailand held democratic, free, and fair parliamentary elections in December of last year, marking a successful return to full-fledged democracy.

So I congratulate the new Thai Government. I look forward to the continuation of the long tradition of friendship and close cooperation between Thailand and the United States.

I urge quick passage of this resolution, which I now send to the desk.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4009. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4010. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. COLEMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5140, *supra*.

SA 4011. Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. SMITH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4012. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1200, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to revise and extend the Act; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4013. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 1200, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4009. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. ECONOMIC STIMULUS SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2008, and to the extent the cost of such reduction in fees are offset by appropriations, with respect to each loan guaranteed under section 7(a) of Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)),

the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall, in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 7(a)(23)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(23)(A)), collect an annual fee in an amount equal to a maximum of .25 percent of the outstanding balance of the deferred participation share of that loan, and in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 7(a)(18)(A) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(18)(A)), collect a guarantee fee in an amount equal to a maximum of 1 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is not more than \$150,000, 2.5 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is more than \$150,000, and not more than \$700,000, and 3 percent of the deferred participation share of a total loan amount that is more than \$700,000, and in lieu of the fee otherwise applicable under section 7(a)(18)(A)(iv) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)(18)(A)(iv)), collect no fee. In carrying out this subsection, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall reduce the fees for a loan guaranteed under section 7(a) of Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)) to the maximum extent possible, subject to the availability of appropriations.

(b) APPROPRIATION.—There are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2008, for the “Business Loans Program Account” of the Small Business Administration, \$150,000,000 for loan subsidies and for loan modifications for loans to small business concerns authorized under subsection (a), and \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for direct loans under the Microloan Program under section 7(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)), and for the “Salaries and Expenses Account” of the Small Business Administration, \$10,000,000, to remain available until expended, for marketing, management, and technical assistance under section 7(m)(4) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(m)(4)) by intermediaries that make microloans under the Microloan Program: *Provided*, That the amounts provided under this subsection are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 204 of S. Con. Res. 21 (110th Congress).

(c) APPLICATION OF FEE REDUCTIONS.—The Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall reduce the fees under subsection (a) for any loan guarantee subject to such subsection for which the application is pending approval on or after the date of enactment of this Act, until the amount provided for such purpose under subsection (b) is expended.

SA 4010. Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. STEVENS, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BURR, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. ISAKSON, and Mr. COLEMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 5140, to provide economic stimulus through recovery rebates to individuals, incentives for business investment, and an increase in conforming and FHA loan limits; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Economic Stimulus Act of 2008”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—RECOVERY REBATES AND INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT

Sec. 101. 2008 recovery rebates for individuals.

Sec. 102. Temporary increase in limitations on expensing of certain depreciable business assets.

Sec. 103. Special allowance for certain property acquired during 2008.

TITLE II—HOUSING GSE AND FHA LOAN LIMITS

Sec. 201. Temporary conforming loan limit increase for Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.

Sec. 202. Temporary loan limit increase for FHA.

TITLE III—EMERGENCY DESIGNATION

Sec. 301. Emergency designation.

TITLE I—RECOVERY REBATES AND INCENTIVES FOR BUSINESS INVESTMENT SEC. 101. 2008 RECOVERY REBATES FOR INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6428 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 6428. 2008 RECOVERY REBATES FOR INDIVIDUALS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible individual, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by subtitle A for the first taxable year beginning in 2008 an amount equal to the lesser of—

“(1) net income tax liability, or
“(2) \$600 (\$1,200 in the case of a joint return).

“(b) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a taxpayer described in paragraph (2)—

“(A) the amount determined under subsection (a) shall not be less than \$300 (\$600 in the case of a joint return), and

“(B) the amount determined under subsection (a) (after the application of subparagraph (A)) shall be increased by the product of \$300 multiplied by the number of qualifying children (within the meaning of section 24(c)) of the taxpayer.

“(2) TAXPAYER DESCRIBED.—A taxpayer is described in this paragraph if the taxpayer—

“(A) has qualifying income of at least \$3,000, or

“(B) has—

“(i) net income tax liability which is greater than zero, and

“(ii) gross income which is greater than the sum of the basic standard deduction plus the exemption amount (twice the exemption amount in the case of a joint return).

“(c) TREATMENT OF CREDIT.—The credit allowed by subsection (a) shall be treated as allowed by subpart C of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1.

“(d) LIMITATION BASED ON ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—The amount of the credit allowed by subsection (a) (determined without regard to this subsection and subsection (f)) shall be reduced (but not below zero) by 5 percent of so much of the taxpayer's adjusted gross income as exceeds \$75,000 (\$150,000 in the case of a joint return).

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

“(1) QUALIFYING INCOME.—The term ‘qualifying income’ means—

“(A) earned income,

“(B) social security benefits (within the meaning of section 86(d)), and

“(C) any compensation or pension received under chapter 11, chapter 13, or chapter 15 of title 38, United States Code.

“(2) NET INCOME TAX LIABILITY.—The term ‘net income tax liability’ means the excess of—

“(A) the sum of the taxpayer's regular tax liability (within the meaning of section 26(b)) and the tax imposed by section 55 for the taxable year, over